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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1918

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THE PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

ONE of the articles of the constitution of the Society of Sigma Xi provides that the president shall explain to the members-elect the aims and objects of the society, and it is in accordance with this requirement that I now have the pleasure of addressing those who have been, by our active membership, adjudged worthy of enlistment with us in the army of investigators and research workers whose goal is the discovery of all truth.

Our constitution sets forth that the society exists for the purpose of encouraging investigation in science, pure and applied, and limits its membership to those who have shown either noteworthy achievement as original investigators or who have given promise of marked ability in research; and if the reward of membership has not proved to be sufficiently adequate and compelling in the promotion of investigation, the society must, if true to its purpose, devise other ways of securing and developing the spirit of research, which is its excuse for existence.

With this in mind, I think, Professor Stieglitz, of the University of Chicago Chapter, has recently proposed that the society at large establish at least three Sigma Xi fellowships, with an income of at least \$1,000 each, as a practical method of stimulating and strengthening ardor for research, since the award of a national Sigma Xi Fellowship would stamp the recipient as one of whom much is expected and would

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¹ Presidential address to members-elect, Alpha Chapter, Sigma Xi Society, April 20, 1918.